

### Proposed Administrative Rule Changes to Educator Licensing (PI 34)

Changes to the administrative rule that governs educator licensing, PI 34, are the result of significant input from a diverse set of stakeholders throughout the state. The changes also implement new statutory language related to licensure as a result of the most recent biennial budget (2017 Wisconsin Act 59). The proposed rule changes are meant to make the licensing process more understandable and increase flexibility, while maintaining high-quality staff in Wisconsin schools. Key aspects of the proposed rule are:

- **Updates, clarifies and makes consistent the program approval process for both traditional and alternative route programs.** The new rule creates a standard, streamlined approach to approving educator preparation programs, while ensuring these programs provide our educators with high quality, rigorous training. (Subchapters II-IV).
- **Simplifies the licensing process.** The new rule creates a tiered approach to educator licensing, which will allow educators to obtain a license fitting their unique training and experience. (Subchapter V). Under this approach:
  - Tier I licenses are of limited duration and authorization, allowing school districts to meet short-term or specialized needs.
  - Tier II licenses are provisional licenses which allow new educators, out-of-state license holders, and other highly qualified individuals to start the progression to a life license.
  - Tier III licenses are life licenses for long-term educators.
  - Tier IV licenses are optional master educator life licenses for educators who meet additional rigorous requirements for quality and effectiveness.
- **Consolidates subject areas.** The new rule will provide districts more flexibility in staffing their schools by preparing educators to teach entire subject areas rather than just specialized subjects (e.g., science, social studies, music – Subchapter VI)
- **Adds flexibility.** The new rule allows highly-qualified license holders to add additional license areas, giving them access to new opportunities and helping school districts fill high demand assignments. (Subchapter IX)
- **Makes the educator misconduct process fairer and more efficient, effective, and transparent.** The new rule provides the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) with additional tools to address educator misconduct, including license suspensions and reprimands. The new rule also adds transparency by requiring the DPI to post final decisions in all misconduct cases, giving schools and parents additional information. (Subchapter X)
- **Creates clarity.** The new rule uses standardized, simplified language and structure to make the rule clearer, more understandable, and shorter. As a result, the new rule is approximately two-thirds as long as the old rule.

This rule is being brought forward by the DPI. It is available to view at <https://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget/administrative-rules>. A public comment period, including hearings and a web-based submission, will be open in January 2018. Public comments will be evaluated to determine if changes need to be made to the proposed rule and a report will be issued to the Wisconsin legislature summarizing the public comment received and the DPI's response. The proposed rule then moves to the legislature, who must approve it before it can go into effect.

If you have questions about this rule or the rulemaking process please email [adminrules@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:adminrules@dpi.wi.gov).